

# CHEVY CHASE VILLAGE CRIER

## THIS MONTH IN THE CRIER

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## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**Monday, May 11, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.**

Board of Managers' Meeting  
*TO BE CONDUCTED VIRTUALLY*

**The Village Hall remains closed to the public as a  
result of the COVID-19 health emergency.**

**Please call our 24-hour Communications Center  
at (301) 654-7300 should you need assistance.**

*Thank you for your cooperation.*

All activities and classes have been canceled through  
the end of May. Please enroll in the Village's blast  
email network for the latest information and updates  
regarding Village operations.

**June 2020 Appeal/Variance  
Deadline: Mon., May 18 by 5:00 PM**

5906 Connecticut Avenue  
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815  
phone: 301.654.7300  
fax: 301.907.9721  
email: [ccv@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:ccv@montgomerycountymd.gov)  
website: [www.chevychasevillagemd.gov](http://www.chevychasevillagemd.gov)

## ANNUAL MEETING RECAP & YEAR IN REVIEW

The 106th Chevy Chase Village Annual Meeting was held on April 20 as a virtual meeting due to the continued stay-at-home orders and closure of the Village Hall. The meeting began with a State of the Village report delivered by Village Board Chair Elissa Leonard and concluded with the Board's adoption of the budget and tax ordinance for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020.

This year's agenda was modified recognizing that the virtual meeting format is not conducive to longer presentations. A compilation of annual reports including more detailed information has been posted on the Village's website for residents to view at their leisure. These include a detailed State of the Village Overview, reports pertaining to permitting activity over the course of the past year, an annual police report and reports from the Village's commissions and committees.

The following is a summary of the reports provided during the Annual Meeting:

### STATE OF THE VILLAGE REPORT

Despite the closure of the Hall, staff and the Board have been able to maintain most Village services and operations--with essential staff continuing to report to work and administrative staffers working remotely from their homes. The Board and the Village Manager continue to monitor statewide and county level actions related to operations closures.

As the result of the extraordinary efforts of an ad hoc pedestrian safety committee assisted by the Village Manager Shana Davis-Cook and Police Chief John Fitzgerald, the State Highway Administration has approved the conversion of the flashing yellow light at Connecticut and Lenox St. to a three-color signal.

Staff began a glass recycling drop-off program at the Village Hall when we learned that our contractor was no longer processing our glass, but was throwing it in the trash. This current contract expires June 30th and we will be reviewing our options for the new contract at our May meeting.

Planning work continues on the municipal storm drain capital improvement project to address severe stormwater runoff along the backyards bordered by West Lenox and Hesketh Street, between Magnolia and Cedar Parkway. In February, the Board voted to reduce the scope of the project, so that no buildings will be impacted, which reduced anticipated costs, while still providing a municipal storm drainpipe to the properties most adversely affected.

The Board approved the disestablishment of the off-leash dog area at the Brookville Road Park after looking at the space through a new lens for suitability last summer, when Montgomery County Park and Planning published their neutral metrics for municipal dog parks.

*Continued on page 2.....*

*...continued from the cover article, "Annual Meeting Recap and Year in Review"*

The Village maintained our designation as a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation and held our celebration in Newlands Park last year. This year, no event will be held, however, Ms. Leonard read the public proclamation highlighting the importance of trees in the community.

Necrology - Ms. Leonard led a moment of silence in remembrance of Village residents who had passed during the prior year: Rose Marie Petrucelli (Cedar Parkway), Robert Levin (Grafton Street), Leon Bramson (Montgomery Street), Ellen Talbott (Cedar Parkway), Mary Clark (Kirkside Drive).

### **ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE VILLAGE MANAGER**

Village Manager Ms. Shana Davis-Cook presented a overview of the administrative staff's work and other highlights, including:

- A consultant was hired to work with the Village's arborist to assess and formulate a plan for restoring the stands of historic boxwood in front of the Village Hall and along Chevy Chase Circle, with the aim of preserving these robust stands, saving the Village thousands in initially planned replacement of this greenery.
- Staff worked closely with the Friends of Chevy Chase Circle in their efforts to improve the safety and beauty of the circle, including coordination with the District of Columbia's Department of Transportation and the Maryland State Highway Administration regarding improved lane markings and signage.
- Working with the Village's Legal Counsel, staff recommended and prepared various amendments to the Village Code including the Building, Urban Forest, Noise, Right-of-Way and Personnel Ordinances.
- Director of Municipal Operations Ellen Sands worked closely with the County Parks Department to fix the decorative fountain in Western Grove Park.
- The Public Works Department continues its program of focused maintenance along our network of brick sidewalks.

### **ANNUAL REPORT ON PUBLIC SAFETY**

- Police Chief John Fitzgerald reported that the department is fully stocked with disinfectant supplies and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) necessary to remain operational and healthy during the COVID-19 emergency.
- 2019 saw a 30% reduction in thefts in the Village and a strong working relationship with neighboring police departments. Residents are reminded to lock their vehicles at all times and to always remove valuables.
- Two hybrid cars were purchased to help reduce the Village's carbon footprint and the department secured a grant that will provide funding to install three electrical charging stations.
- The 2020 August Night Out event will have to be canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **ANNUAL REPORT ON VILLAGE FINANCES, BUDGET OVERVIEW**

Board Treasurer Gary Crockett reported that Village is well-positioned to maintain operations during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic, with reserves to cover about two years of operations expenses, nonetheless, forecasting our finances for the next couple of years is even more difficult than usual.

The Village's cash reserves, maintained in very safe investments, currently equal two years' of budgeted operations even if no expense cuts are made. The purpose of those reserves is to provide for unforeseen events that affect our revenues or expenses.

Our three largest sources of revenue are income tax (60%), property tax (20%), and the *SafeSpeed* Program (speed cameras) net revenue (7%). An additional 4%, comes from State transfer payments from highway user revenues and a police aid grant. These payments are planned but not legally required, so assuming they'll be cut as the State struggles to balance its budget, they have been removed from the FY2021 budget.

Regarding impacts to income tax revenues, the State collects and disburses the local income tax revenue on behalf of the counties and municipalities. The State gets the bulk of that tax revenue immediately as taxes are withheld from paychecks and as quarterly estimated tax payments are made for other types of income, but the state remits the 2019 tax revenue to the Village in 2020, as people actually file their 2019 tax returns.

The impacts of COVID-19 on the economy this year will have a relatively modest effect on the Village's FY2021 budget. The true economic impacts of the health crisis will be seen in FY2022, but by then we should have better information about whether to treat this as a one-year shock or as a longer-term impact.

At this time we're not planning any major changes to Village operations or to property tax rates in response to the pandemic and its effects, but the Board will monitor events and respond as the needs arise.

Information regarding the FY2020 and FY2021 budgets are available on the Village website.

## THREE-COLOR SIGNAL APPROVED FOR CONNECTICUT AVENUE PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT LENOX STREET

During the Annual Meeting on April 20, Village Board Chair Elissa Leonard announced the long-awaited news that the State Highway Administration (SHA) has officially approved the Village's request for conversion of the flashing beacon at the pedestrian crossing on Connecticut Avenue at Lenox Street to a three-color signal.

This news follows a years-long effort by the Village urging SHA to provide a safe passage for pedestrians attempting to cross Connecticut Avenue between Bradley Lane and Chevy Chase Circle. In 2016, SHA installed a pedestrian crossing and flashing yellow beacons at Lenox Street. Village representatives argued that this configuration was insufficient to ensure a safe crossing by pedestrians because drivers frequently failed to stop when a pedestrian was present in the crosswalk. Equally troubling, many pedestrians mistakenly assumed that vehicles were required to stop once they began to cross, creating a very unsafe situation.

Last May, the Village's ad hoc Pedestrian Safety Committee sent a renewed request to the SHA Administrator asking for the crossing to be reassessed and citing concerns we had received from the community as well as detailing our enforcement efforts. We then worked with officials from the Montgomery County Department of Transportation to reinforce our concerns with the state.

The Village received formal notice that the three-color signal had been approved. Pasted below is an excerpt from the notice:

*In response to your concerns regarding pedestrian safety at the MD 185 (Connecticut Avenue) and Lenox Street crossing, MDOT SHA District Three traffic engineering staff recently revisited conditions at this location. As part of our re-evaluation, updated traffic counts were analyzed and on-site observations at the subject location were conducted. The pedestrian experience, and motorist response to crossing pedestrians were also carefully noted. We found during our review that while pedestrian-activated Hazard Identification Beacons (HIBs) are currently operational at the existing crosswalk, during field observations some motorists failed to yield to pedestrians within the crosswalk.*

*We would like to inform you that to enhance safety for all users at this location, **a project to construct a full-color traffic signal with Accessible Pedestrian Signals / Countdown Pedestrian Signals was recently approved** by our MDOT SHA Office of Traffic and Safety (OOTS). The project is currently in the early design phase. Moving forward, we will keep you and others updated as the project schedule progresses further towards construction. **Emphasis added.***

We await information from the state regarding the final design, operation configuration and timeline for this change. We will advise the public as this information becomes available. Thank you to the various members of the community and Village staff who advocated for this safety improvement.

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### JOIN THE VILLAGE LISTSERV ON GROUPS.IO

Last year, CCVillage, the neighborhood mailing list for Chevy Chase Village, was transferred to CCVillage@Groups.io. During this period of social distancing, CCVillage is a resource to allow neighbors to stay connected with each other.

If you have not done so already, please join the mailing list by visiting <https://groups.io/g/CCVillage> and clicking on the blue “+ Join This Group” button. Once you are enrolled, the email address to submit messages to the mailing list is [ccvillage@groups.io](mailto:ccvillage@groups.io), and you can read the group messages online at <http://groups.io/g/CCVillage/topics>.

On the website, click on “Messages” in the left column menu to see the most recent CCVillage posts, and click “New Topic” to open an editor that will let you compose and send your message. You can search the database of old messages by clicking the “Search” button above the message list.

The CCVillage information website is at <http://CCVillage.info>. For assistance with joining or posting messages, please contact moderator and Village resident Tim Slagle at [ccvillage+owner@groups.io](mailto:ccvillage+owner@groups.io).

# BOARD ACTIONS:

APRIL 13, 2020 BOARD OF MANAGERS' MEETING

## Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes:

March 9, 2020 Regular Meeting - *approved*

## Matters for Board Discussion and Possible Adoption

**COVID-19 Economic Impacts:** After discussing anticipated impacts to the FY2020 and FY2021 budgets resulting from the COVID-19 health emergency, the Board unanimously agreed to amend the draft FY2021 budget to eliminate the highway user revenue and police aid state grants (totaling \$200,413) from the FY2021 proposed budget in anticipation of state cuts to discretionary areas of the budget as it looks to address an anticipated sizable budget shortfall.

**Resolution No. 03-01-20:** A Resolution of the Chevy Chase Village Board of Managers to declare a State of Emergency and authorize the Village Manager to take certain actions (related to the COVID-19 Pandemic). - *approved*

**County Review of the Village's Small Cell Ordinance:** Board Members agreed to allow the staff and Counsel to work with the county to review the Village small cell ordinance to identify areas where the Village's ordinance can be conformed to the county's rules, which would provide an opportunity for the county to assist in processing applications within the Village.

*This is a synopsis of the Board's actions. To view an archive of the approved minutes, or to listen to audio recordings of the most recent Board Meetings, please visit the Village website: [www.chevychasevillagemd.gov](http://www.chevychasevillagemd.gov) by clicking on "Board of Managers Meetings" under the header "Quick Links" on the homepage.*

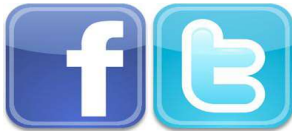
**Next Regular Board of Managers' Meeting:** Monday, May 11, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

**NOTE:** This meeting will be held virtually with members of the Board of Managers, staff and the public participating by phone or video. Access information for this meeting will be posted to the Village website and included in the weekly blast email on May 8.

## FOLLOW CHEVY CHASE VILLAGE ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER!!

<https://www.facebook.com/CCVillage>

<https://twitter.com/chevychasevill>



## BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED: APRIL 2020

5609 Grove Street - 2-story rear addition, screened porch  
139 Hesketh Street - Install rear flagstone path and patio  
5511 Park Street - Replace rear patio with addition  
30 West Kirke Street - Arbor, drywell and lamppost  
11 East Lenox Street - Install two drywells in rear yard  
111 East Melrose Street - Addition, renovations above garage  
5514 Grove Street - 4 ft. high fence to screen AC units  
112 Grafton Street - Three AC units in rear of property  
29 West Irving Street - Rear patio and flagstone walkway

## BOARD OF MANAGERS ELECTION: UNCONTESTED;

## ELECTION SUPERVISORS ANNOUNCES SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES AS ELECTED

During the 106th Chevy Chase Village Annual Meeting held virtually on April 20, Election Supervisors Chair Ms. Mary Sheehan reported that three incumbents, Robert Goodwin, Jr., Elissa Leonard, and Nancy Watters were the only candidates to declare candidacy for the three available seats.

All of the candidates had submitted their Certificates of Candidacy and Financial Disclosure Statements prior to the April 2 deadline and the Village Ethics Commission had reviewed the Financial Disclosure Statements having been duly filed. Therefore, the candidates were deemed elected.

A copy of the Elections Supervisors report is available on the Village website at [www.chevychasevillagemd.gov](http://www.chevychasevillagemd.gov).

Congratulations to Robert Goodwin, Jr., Elissa Leonard and Nancy Watters on their reelection to the Village Board! All three will take the Oath of Office at the start of the June 8th regular Board Meeting.



# THE POLICE BEAT

E-mail Police Chief John M. Fitzgerald: [john.m.fitzgerald@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:john.m.fitzgerald@montgomerycountymd.gov)

## NEW COMMUNICATIONS CLERK JOINS THE VILLAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT



*Allison Shumake*

Ms. Allison Shumake of Woodbine, Maryland joined the Village Police Department as a communications clerk/dispatcher on February 3 of this year.

Allison graduated from Century High School in Carroll County and attended Carroll Community College before successfully completing the 9-1-1 Emergency

Dispatch Academy at Montgomery College. Allison sailed through four weeks of training at the Village and is now assigned to the midnight (6pm-6am) shift and doing a great job for us.

Please join us in welcoming Allison to the Village!

## LEAF BLOWER & LANDSCAPE EQUIPMENT REGULATIONS

- ◇ Permitted hours—Power landscape equipment, including leaf blowers, may only be used weekdays from **8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.**, and from **9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.** on weekends and holidays.
- ◇ **No one may use a leaf blower that has an average sound level exceeding 70 dBA** (check the rating sticker on your blower). If your blower is rated above 70dBA, it is illegal.
- ◇ **Multiple blowers may cause too much noise**—Use of more than 1 'legal' blower may also violate the noise limit.
- ◇ First time violators will receive a warning; subsequent violators will receive a **\$500 citation** (for each violation).
- ◇ **Effective January 1, 2022 the use of gas-powered leaf blowers will be illegal.**



## NOISE START TIMES ENFORCED

With the warmer weather of spring, many residents are hiring contractors to maintain and make improvements to their properties. These contractors typically like to start early so they can avoid the heat of the day.



Residents are encouraged to remind their contractors that the Village noise ordinance prohibits construction noise and power landscape equipment prior to 8:00 a.m. on weekdays and prior to 9:00 a.m. on weekends and holidays. The noise regulations are strictly enforced by citation and fine.

Our Key Program only works if we have your key!

If you have not already done so, please return your house key in case you or a family member gets locked out and so the Village Police can access your home in an emergency.

## PLEASE LOCK YOUR VEHICLE— EVERY TIME YOU PARK!

The vast majority of our thefts are from unlocked cars. We make it far too easy (and inviting) for thieves when we fail to lock our cars. Please lock your car doors **every** time you park. And please, remove all valuables. Locking your car is a civic duty; when you lock your car, you reduce opportunities for thieves and discourage them from returning to the Village.



## PROTECT YOUR IDENTITY — DON'T PUT OUTGOING MAIL IN YOUR MAIL SLOT

Placing outgoing mail in your mail slot may put you at risk for identity theft. Often, outgoing items sits for hours until the mail carrier comes by, and in the meantime, a thief may take them. It has happened to several residents. Although the convenience makes it tempting to put it in the slot, please use one of the local mail boxes, or stop by our Post Office on the north end of the Village Hall.

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## TREE OF THE MONTH:

### ULMUS AMERICANA: AMERICAN ELM AND PRINCETON ELM



Ulmus is a species of trees native to eastern North America from Nova Scotia down to Florida and central Texas. Because of its rapid growth and graceful form and its ability to withstand very cold winter temperatures, it can live for several hundred years. However, in the early 20th century, Dutch Elm Disease (DED) and Verticillium Wilt that looks a lot like DED decimated the number of Elm trees in the landscape in the US.

The tree was first described by Linnaeus in his book, *Species Plantarum*, published in 1753. Before DED spread havoc, the tree grew to more than 100 feet tall. Its spreading umbrella-like shape has made it a graceful presence in the landscape. Its fruit is a flat samara with a circular papery wing surrounding a single seed. The seeds are dispersed by the wind. Princeton University developed the Princeton Elm, much less susceptible to disease and now is a popular choice for re-planting when DED strikes.

Leaves of the American elm are alternate and serve as food for the larvae of a number of species of Lepidoptera, butterflies such as the Eastern Comma, Question Mark, Painted Lady, Mourning Cloak and Red-spotted Purple. There are at least two American elm trees on Oliver Street. Can you find them?

## WHEN THE POWER GOES OUT...

When a power outage occurs, it is important for all residents to call the following two phone numbers:

1. **PEPCO at 1-(877) PEPCO-62**
2. **Village Communications Center at (301) 654-7300**

If the power is restored and goes out again in a matter of minutes, the above two phone calls must be made again so the new outage is registered.

## THE SENIOR CORNER

As all of you know, our beautiful Village Hall remains closed to the community. Because of this, all of the events that I had planned for Seniors have been postponed until the war on this terrible virus has been won.

I continue to miss you, and am thinking of you.

All of our programs are brought to you in cooperation with Chevy Chase@Home and Chevy Chase Village. We welcome suggestions for future events. E-mail me at [bettyoconnor2@verizon.net](mailto:bettyoconnor2@verizon.net) or call 301-656-0597.

Peace and Love to All,

*Betty O'Connor,*

*Chair, Committee for Seniors*

## SIGN UP FOR EMAIL BLAST(S)

Sign-up for the Village Email Blasts! The Village operates two email distribution lists to provide timely information:

**Urgent News Blast** are emergency alerts that are sent out only on an as-needed basis. Such alerts include water main breaks, power outages, operations closures and public safety alerts.

**General News Blast**, which are geared toward community events, Board Meetings, etc. will be sent out weekly.

To subscribe, visit the Village's website at [www.chevychasevillagemd.gov](http://www.chevychasevillagemd.gov) and click **Notify Me** on the homepage (look for the image on the right).



The mobile service bus will visit the Friendship Heights Village Center along Friendship Boulevard on

**Tuesday, May 19 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

**NOTE: The bus will be canceled if MVA remains closed.**

For more information, call (301) 656-2797 or visit

[www.FriendshipHeightsmd.gov](http://www.FriendshipHeightsmd.gov)

## VILLAGE TEENS

Village teens are available for a variety of services. Please email the Village office at [ccv@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:ccv@montgomerycountymd.gov) to add a teen to the list and to make changes.

**List available in the print version that is mailed to residents.**

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### WARM WEATHER BRINGS INCREASE IN BARKING AND OTHER DOG COMPLAINTS

In addition to the warmer weather allowing Village canines to enjoy the outdoors, the current Stay at Home order means that many residents are working and learning from home. While pets might be enjoying more outdoor time, please be sensitive to the impact of your dog's barking on neighbors' tranquility and ability to focus. In addition to prohibiting excessive barking, Village regulations also contain provisions related to cleaning up after your pet. The Animal Control Code can be viewed on the Village website under the "Charter, Code & Policies" link on the homepage. Be a considerate neighbor - bring incessantly barking dogs inside and clean up after your pet.

# CHEVY CHASE VILLAGE

ESTABLISHED 1890

5906 Connecticut Avenue  
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

PRSRT STD

US Postage

PAID

Permit No. 7078  
SUBURBAN, MD

## BOARD OF MANAGERS

Elissa Leonard- *Chair*

Robert C. Goodwin, Jr. - *Vice-Chair*

David L. Winstead - *Secretary*

Richard M. Ruda - *Assistant Secretary*

Gary Crockett - *Treasurer*

Nancy E. Watters - *Assistant Treasurer*

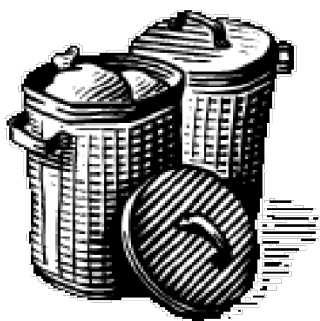
Linda J. Willard- *Board Member*

## VILLAGE MANAGER

Shana R. Davis-Cook



## TRASH & RECYCLING COLLECTION; SPECIAL PICK-UPS



Resident input regarding the contracted services for trash and recycling collection is an important factor during the evaluation of these services. Please contact the Village office to provide your feedback.

The Village provides rear door collection of refuse and recycling as a convenience to our residents.

Please leave your gates unlocked

to allow access to your receptacles and remember to contact the Communications Center if either your refuse or recycling were not collected.

**Special Pickups** of bulk items are collected on Wednesdays. Requests must be submitted either by phone or through the Village website by 2:00 p.m. on the preceding Tuesday to ensure collection.

## DO I NEED A PERMIT

Contact the Village office to confirm permit requirements prior to starting any renovation, building or landscape project. E-mail [ccvpermitting@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:ccvpermitting@montgomerycountymd.gov) or call (301) 654-7300.

## HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

The Administrative office and Public Works Department will be **closed** on **Monday, May 25** in observance of Memorial Day. The Communications Center and Police Department remain staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

## HOLIDAY COLLECTION SCHEDULE FOR REFUSE AND RECYCLING

Week of Memorial Day: May 25-May 30, 2020

IF YOUR NORMAL COLLECTION DAY IS...	YOUR COLLECTION DAY WILL BE...
Monday	Tuesday
Tuesday	Wednesday
Wednesday	Thursday
Thursday	Friday
Friday	Saturday